AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of the number of godowns owned and hired by FCI, State-wise and capacity-wise, as on 30.9.98 are indicated in the Statement. *(See below)*

(c) The construction of godowns is a continuous activity. The construction programme is drawn up by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other agencies in the various States keeping in view the specific requirements of the States and availability of funds. The addition in storage capacity by FCI in the last five years is as under:

S. No.	Year	Increase in storage capacity (in Lakhs MTs)
1.	1993-94	0.76
2.	1994-95	0.46
3.	1995-96	1.18
4.	1996-97	0.09
5.	1997-98	0.11

Statement

State-wise number of Godowns (owned & Hired) with capacity (owned & hired) Available with the Food Corporation of India as on 30.09.1998

(in lakh tonnes)

S. No.	State/U.Ts	No. of Godowns Owned	Hired	Covered capacity Owned	Hired
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	—	0.17	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	35	77	11.82	4.47
3.	Assam	18	23	1.87	0.88
4.	Bihar	19	34	4.33	1.39
5.	Goa	1	—	0.15	—
6.	Gujarat	14	15	4.91	2.45
7.	Haryana	37	47	7.71	3.63
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4	13	0.11	0.16
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	3	0.77	0.24
10.	Karnataka	15	41	2.70	1.87
11.	Kerala	20	4	5.24	0.12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	41	105	8.31	5.44
13.	Maharashtra	17	32	11.77	2.93
14.	Manipur	2	1	0.12	0.01
15.	Meghalaya	2	3	0.10	0.07
16.	Mizoram	4	2	0.18	0.05
17.	Nagaland	4	2	0.08	0.13
18.	Orissa	22	25	2.54	2.03
19.	Punjab	108	198	21.04	25.21
20.	Rajasthan	35	40	7.07	2.51
21.	Sikkim	1	3	0.07	0.09
22.	Tamil Nadu	16	13	5.87	2.44
23.	Tripura	2	5	0.18	0.17
24.	Uttar Pradesh	54	179	15.02	12.27
25.	West Bengal	26	26	8.62	2.95
26.	Chandigarh Admn.	4	4	0.40	0.21
27.	Delhi	7	1	3.22	0.05
28.	Pondicherry	3	1	0.41	0.12
	TOTAL	526	887	124.84	71.89

Measures to Check Prices of Essential Commodities

660.SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have evolved a series of short and long term measures to check rise in prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the programmes chalked out by Government to check rise in prices of essential commodities failed to have an effective impact; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has already implemented several measures for augmenting the production of essential commodities, their distribution, exports and imports. Recently, certain short term and medium term measures were recommended in the meeting of Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories to check the rise in prices. A summary of the same is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No study has been carried out to know the efficacy of the measures taken by the Government to check rise in prices of essential commodities. The measures suggested in the recent Chief Minister meeting are being implemented.

Statement

A summary of short term and medium term measures recommended to check the rise in prices

1. National Crop Forecasting Centre will be immediately set up under the Ministry of Agriculture which would make full use of satellite based remote sensing capabilities of the Department of Space and the computer network set up by the National Informatics Centre covering all the districts, for making forecasts relating to various agricultural crops and disseminating information thereof.

2. The Essential Commodities Act would be immediately reviewed with a view to examine as to how the State Government/ UT Administrations can be empowered for effective action against those who board and cause artificial shortage and engage in trade mal-practices not only in respect of foodgrains but also in items of mass consumption like vegetables, edible oils etc. Group of officials under the Cabinet Secretary would be constituted to make suitable recommendations both on the amendment of the Act and the steps that should be taken to improve the enforcement mechanism. Representatives of some of the States would be included in this Group.

3. The States/UTs would take advantage whenever warranted, of the powers already delegated to them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1935 to take effective action for curbing of mal-practices relating to essential commodities.

4. The Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP) set up within the Union Government would be restructured to make it more functional and enable it to carry out monthly reviews on prices and ensure timely corrective action. The State Governments would also similarly consider setting up similer committees in their respective States.

5. Social Cell would be set up under the Cabinet Secretariat to monitor and analyse price date and trends of essential commodities. It would also service the Cabinet Committee on Prices which would take decisions on imports and exports of essential commodities. The cell will establish mechanism for obtaining crop price and production data from various centres in the country and share these information suitably with the States.

6. A Joint Monitoring Mechanism for prices and production will be established under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary which will hold quarterly meetings with the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs.

7. The States/UTs will initiate urgent steps to implement a programme for establishment of efficient and cost effective cold storages to minimise high percentage of waste as well as programmes relating to development of food processing industries. Finance Ministry will examine the possibility of providing soft loan to the States/UTs from the banking system for improving these facilities.

8. In the event of obnormal increase in the prices of any perishable essential commodities, State Governments/UT Administrations would undertake market intervention operations for distribution of these commodities at reasonable prices till the situation reverts to normally. To facilitate such market interventions, Central Government will provide necessary funds on matching basis. For distribution of such commodities, States/UTs will use the existing mechanism of PDS.

9. Having regard to the fiscal deficit of the Union Government as well as those of the States/UTs. Concerted afforts will be made by both the Central Government and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to augment revenues, realise user charges fully and curb unproductive expenditures.

10. The items included by the Central and State Governments under PDS will be reviewed from time to time.

11. States/UTs will take immediate action to remove restrictions including informal restrictions, if any, on the movement of essential commodities so that free flow of essential commodities in ensured.

सरसों के तेल की बरामदगी

661. **श्री रामबीलाल:** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली में ड्राप्सी कांड से संबंधित कितने मामले दर्ज किये गये तथा कितना माल बरामद किया गया;

(ख) बरामद किये गये माल का ब्यौरा क्या है और उस माल का क्या हुआ;